

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-8 are pending. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 4-6 are currently amended.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing that claims 3-9 include allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of now canceled claim 3. Therefore, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. Claims 4-7 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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Page : 5 of 5

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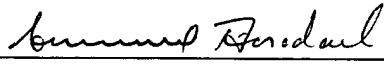
Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, all remaining claims are allowable and a notice of allowance should be issued.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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